

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 L-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 AF-04 OMB-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00

SAM-01 /053 W

----- 105570

O R 291058Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1712

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

RUHQHQAXCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIDEASTFOR BAHRAIN

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5003

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, XO

SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 123690

1. WE WOULD CHARACTERIZE GOI POSITION ON DIEGO GARCIA AS FAVORABLE, BUT QUALIFIED. USUAL IRANIAN POSITION IS THAT SECURITY OF PERSIAN GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD BE RESPONSIBILITY OF LITTORAL STATES. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT LITTORAL STATES ARE NOT NOW IN A POSITION TO ASSURE REGIONAL SECURITY. FURTHER, WHEN ONE SUPER POWER (READ USSR) IS PRESENT IN THE AREA IN STRENGTH, IRAN PREFERS THAT THE OTHER SUPER POWER MAINTAIN A COUNTERBALANCING PRESENCE. THEREFORE, WHEN THE SOVIETS HAVE A 9,000-DAY SHIP PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO COUNTER WITH ITS ACTIVITY AT DIEGO GARCIA AND A USN PRESENCE IN THE AREA. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REFER TO SHAH'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB APPEARANCE DURING
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HIS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA (CANBERRA 6505 OF OCTOBER 3, 1974, PARA

8). SEE ALSO SHAH'S INTERVIEW BY BLITZ REPORTER (NEW DELHI 13058 OF SEPT 30, 1974).

2. SHAH HAS PRIVATELY TAKEN A SOMEWHAT STRONGER POSITION IN SUPPORT OF USG PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA. DURING HIS AUDIENCE FOR ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY, FOR EXAMPLE, HE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH US CONCEPT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DIEGO GARCIA. SEE ALSO CANBERRA 6482. NO REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE IN TESTIMONY TO THE SHAH'S PRIVATE COMMENTS ON DIEGO GARCIA. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, IRANIAN PUBLIC POSITION ON REMOVING OUTSIDE POWERS FROM PERSIAN GULF HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT MORE EXPLICIT RECENTLY AS IRAN HAS IMPROVED ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING ARAB STATES. GOI GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN LINKED IN PAST. WE DO NOT BELIEVE OUR SPOKESMEN SHOULD ASCRIBE TO GOI A POSITION WHICH ENDORSES WITHOUT QUALIFICATION PRESENCE OF US FORCES ON DIEGO GARCIA OR ELSEWHERE IN THIS AREA. IN OUR STATEMENTS TO CONGRESS WE SHOULD ADHERE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO WHAT GOI HAS SAID PUBLICLY.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

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